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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/813,416	03/20/2001	Dennis W. Hall	42390P11038	2408

8791 7590 09/23/2005

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EXAMINER

BILGRAMI, ASGHAR H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/813,416

Applicant(s)

HALL, DENNIS W.

Examiner

Asghar Bilgrami

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1 July 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fijolek et al (U.S. 6,058,421) and Frailong et al (U.S. 6,073,172).

3. As per claims 1, 10, 13 & 18 Fijolek discloses a method to manage network addresses, comprising: receiving a first request for a network address from a client at an agent (col.3, lines 39-67, col.4 lines 1-32), procuring said network address from a network address provider; and sending said network address to said client (col.6, lines 64-67, col.7, lines 1-23 & col.9, lines 21-28). However Fijolek did not explicitly disclose the network to be a virtual private network

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(VPN). In the same field of endeavor Frailong disclosed the network to be a virtual private network (col.16, lines 44-53 & col.16, lines 49-57).

It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated a Virtual Private network as disclosed by Frailong in a method to manage network addresses as disclosed by Fijolek in order to make the network system more versatile and flexible resulting in making the network environment more scalable.

4. As per claims 2 & 14 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 1, wherein said first request is received using a first protocol, and said procuring comprises: creating a second request for said network address using a second protocol; sending said second request to a network address provider; receiving said network address from said network address provider (Fijolek, col.4, lines 33-49, col.7, lines 14-23); and storing said network address in an address assignment table (Fijolek, col.9, lines 21-30).

5. As per claims 3 & 15 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 2, wherein said creating comprises: assigning a unique identifier to said client', and creating said second request using said unique identifier (Fijolek, col.11, lines 39-44).

6. As per claims 4 & 16 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 1, further comprising managing use of said network address by said client (Fijolek, col.8, lines 65-67, col.9, lines 1-4).

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7. As per claims 5 & 17 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 4, wherein said managing comprises: receiving an assignment identifier corresponding to said network address, said assignment identifier indicating a status and time period said client may use said network address', monitoring a time said client has used said network address; comparing said time to said time period; and requesting an extension to said time period in accordance with said comparison (Fijolek, col.9, lines 5-20, col.26, lines 28-40).

8. As per claim 6 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 1, wherein said network address provider is a dynamic host configuration protocol server (Fijolek, col.4, lines 33-49).

9. As per claim 7 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 1, wherein said network address comprises an Internet Protocol address (Fijolek, col.8, lines 65-67 & col.9, lines1-4).

10. As per claim 8 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 2, wherein said first protocol is a layer two tunneling protocol (Fijolek, col.9, lines 5-20).

11. As per claim 9 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 2, wherein said second protocol is a transport control protocol and internet protocol (Fijolek, col.7, lines 14-23, lines 51-59, col.8, lines 65-67 & col.9, lines1-4).

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12. As per claims 11 & 19 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 10, wherein said creating comprises creating said virtual connection using said network address in accordance with a security scheme (Fijolek, col.4, lines 6-32, col.9, lines 21-30).

13. As per claims 12 & 20 Fijolek-Frailong disclosed the method of claim 11, wherein said security scheme is a security scheme in accordance with the DES Specification (Fijolek, col.7, lines 60-65, col.9, lines 5-20).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Asghar Bilgrami whose telephone number is 571-272-3907. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

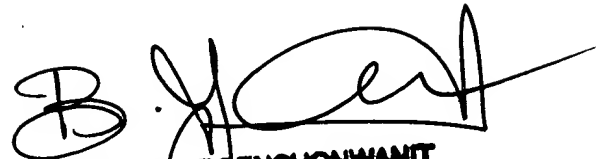
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Asghar Bilgrami
Examiner
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PRIMARY EXAMINER